FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENDER RESPONSIVE LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN WOMEN

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GENDER RESPONSIVE LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
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INTRODUCTION

The questions featured here are compiled from various platforms in which UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa (ESAR) staff has discussed the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (SDGs) generally or specifically the process of localizing the SDGs. The designation of SDG focal persons in each country office, and their participation in the SDG Community of Practice (COP) set up in 2015 has generated insightful discussions, sharing, and learning. UN Women ESARO is providing brief responses to each of the questions raised on these platforms. They are not meant to be exhaustive but can serve as a tool for quick reference by stakeholders in the SDG space as they engage in the process of localization of SDGs, or brief partners and stakeholders on different aspects of the SDGs, including the linkages with other global and regional policy and development frameworks.[1] Responses are extracted from publicly available sources which are included in the footnotes to facilitate easy access to details as may be required.

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1   An example is the link between the SDGs with the Beijing Platform for Action; and with Agenda 2063 adopted by the African Union as Africa's development blueprint for the next 50 years.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are SDGs?

SDGs are at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015.[2] The Agenda builds on and takes over from the Millennium Development Goals – a 15 year development agenda adopted in 2000. The 2030 Agenda has 17 goals with a total of 169 targets. The SDGs apply to all countries – not only the developing countries. The SDGs are:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

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2   For details see Transforming Our World - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN GA Resolution A/RES/70/1

2. How many targets do we have on SDGs in total?

There are 169 SDG targets.

3. How many SDG indicators are there?

The UN Statistical Commission was mandated by the General Assembly to develop the indicator framework for the 2030 Agenda and this work has been ongoing through the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), consisting of UN member states and UN organisations. Africa was represented by Algeria, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda. UN Women participates in the activities of the IAEG-SDGs. Following months of open discussion and consultation, the IAEG-SDGs presented the list of indicators for global monitoring of the 2030 Agenda to the UN Statistical Commission.

In March 2016, at its 47th session, the United Nations Statistical Commission agreed with the IAEG-SDG on a list of 230 unique indicators 14 indicators for goal 5 on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls as a 'practical starting point' for global monitoring of the SDGs. The report containing the indicators can be viewed on http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-IAEG-SDGs-Rev1-E.pdf. These indicators present significant challenges in terms of establishing baseline data, and strengthening robust systems for tracking. For the metadata of indicators collected during the consultative phase please check on http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/metadata-compilation/

4. How many SDGs are there on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls?

There is one stand-alone SDG on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. This is Goal 5 which states: *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*. However other goals are directly or indirectly relevant for the achievement of Goal 5. For example, the elimination of poverty (Goal 1) and the promotion of healthy lives (Goal 3) are important for the achievement of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE). The 2030 Agenda incorporates the essential inter-linkages among SDGs. Other SDGs (besides SDG 5) have 54 GEWE specific targets according to previous internal UN Women analysis. The deliberate use of "all" in certain goals and targets also includes women and girls and GEWE advocates need to promote and support the realization of all goals as they all contribute to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in one way or the other. UN Women has done some analyses highlighting the relevance of each SDG for GEWE and it is available on the SDG http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications.[3] Additionally when the indicators for SDGs strongly call for sex disaggregation of data across almost all SDGs.

5. What is the effective date for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

January 1, 2016 was the effective date for the implementation of the SDGs following the end period of the MDGs. Countries are expected to localize the SDGs and start implementation and monitoring progress.

6. What is meant by localisation of the SDGs?

The concept of localizing the SDGs refers to the process of designing (or adjusting) national and sub-national government development plans, strategies and/ or policies to adapt the SDG targets to the local context and priorities. Localizing the SDGs involves promoting national and local multi-stakeholder ownership of the agenda – stepping down the globally agreed development agenda to the local in a way that they respond to local priority needs and interests. It is a process (not an event), and should be led by the government to ensure the alignment of national, local government and sectoral plans with the SDGs. The alignment also extends to implementation, resourcing and

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3   UN Women ESARO (2016), An Analysis of Women and Sustainable Development Goals

data and monitoring frameworks. For most countries localisation will involve a process of prioritization and strategic visioning. It is important that GEWE advocates actively and effectively participate in the localisation process to ensure that the process and outcomes are gender-responsive and in line with the principle of leaving no one including women and girls behind. Localization also implies getting communities and their organisations, including CSOs "owning" the Agenda, participating in the localisation and implementation processes, and making demands of their governments to ensure progress in priority areas of concern to them and ensuring accountability. Women must be at the heart of the SDG agenda.

7. What is UN Women's mandate in the localization process?

The UN General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence which establishes UN Women with a mandate to carry one the consolidated mandates of the four consolidated organisations.[4] These mandates include support to inter-governmental bodies, in their formulation of policies, and setting global standards and norms; and research and knowledge creation. UN Women was also mandated to lead, coordinate and promote the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Entity is mandated to forge effective partnerships with civil society. UN Women operates as part of the resident coordinator system, leading and coordinating the work of the country team on gender equality and the empowerment of women, under the overall leadership of the resident coordinator.

Consequently, UN Women's role in the localization of SDG must be construed from its overall mandate. UN Women was actively involved in the advocacy and support for the Rio+20 Conference (June 2012) that negotiated the Sustainable Development Goals, and for the inter-governmental process that culminated in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. With the SDG Agenda becoming effective on 1 January 2016, in

fulfilling its mandate, UN Women works within the UN Resident Coordinator System as part of the UN Country Team within which UN Women is expected to lead, coordinate and promote" the accountability of the UN system's work in mainstreaming SDG 5 and other gender related targets in other SDGs in its support to governments.

8. What tools and guidance notes have been developed by the UNDG to support the localization of SDGs at country and regional levels?

The UN Development Group has developed a Reference Guide for UN Country Teams (UNCTs) that wish to support Member States and national stakeholders in tailoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to national contexts ("mainstreaming") while protecting its integrity.[5] According to the UNDG, the Guide features an array of approaches and tools that UNCTs can discuss with Member States to adapt the Agenda to national, sub-national and local conditions and realities, incorporating regional perspectives where appropriate.

These approaches and tools should be treated by UNCTs as a menu of options, with the case studies providing examples of how some countries have begun to develop and use relevant tools. More general information and resources on the SDGs can be found on the UN dedicated website for Agenda 2030 viz. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/.

9. What tools and guidance notes have been developed by UN Women HQ that support localization of SDGs?

UN Women actively supported the process of consultations leading up to the adoption of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, providing expert input on GEWE. The organisation worked closely with the Open Working Group set up to negotiate the post 2015 development agenda, UN member states, other

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4   UNIFEM, INSTRAW, OSAGI and DAW

5   UNDG (2015) Reference Guide for UNCTs, p 5.

UN organisations, programmes and funds, as well as CSOs, to ensure that GEWE was at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The commendable results include the stand-alone goal on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (Goal 5) as well as mainstreaming GEWE across the other SDGs. UN Women is currently in the process of developing a guidance note for all its country offices.

UN Women ESARO has already developed a strategy and several tools including a knowledge management and communications strategies as part of its support to country offices as they work with UNCTs and governments to localize and implement the SDGs. These resources can be accessed through UN Women Africa website- http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications.

10. What resources have been produced by other UN agencies that can help with localization of SDGs?

Many UN Agencies, Programmes, and Funds have or are in the process of developing tools for guiding and supporting their work on SDGs. Below are a few examples:

a) UNDP – a policy and programme brief outlining UNDP support to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; see http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/SDGs/SDG%20Implementation%20and%20UNDP_Policy_and_Programme_Brief.pdf

b) UNICEF – learning materials targeting teachers; see https://teachunicef.org/teaching-materials/topic/sustainable-development-goals

c) UNICEF - a series of issue briefs examining how each SDG impacts children and child rights; see http://www.unicef.org/post2015/index_69527.html

d) UNFPA – a brief analysis of how each SDG related to UNFPA's core mandate http://www.unfpa.org/sdg

e) UNIDO – a brochure outlining the relevance of each SDG to its mandate and highlighting the industry-related targets; see http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media_upgrade/Who_we_are/Mission/ISID_SDG_brochure_final.pdf

f) UN Women - a brief analysis of how each SDG related to UN Women's core mandate; see http://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications

g) WFP - a quick guide for WFP staff; see http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/reports/wfp279756.pdf

11. How should the UN Women multi/country offices feed into the work by the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in the process of localization of SDGs?

UN Women is an integral part of the UN System at the country level working together under the coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC). In countries where the organisation has an office the UN Women Representative is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT). UN Women's role is to:

• Provide technical leadership within the UNCT for localisation of SDG 5 and other gender related targets in other SDGs through appropriate review and implementation of UNDAF/P, as well as developing capacities and orientation of gender theme groups towards the SDG targets on GEWE. UN Women's technical leadership and guidance to the UNCT in ensuring that its support to government promotes and triggers sustained and transformative policy, programmatic actions toward gender equality at national and sub-national levels;

• Coordinate the UNCT actions aimed at building, strengthening and working with multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral alliances for stronger GEWE voice, advocacy and expertise in the context of the localisation, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

- Creating awareness and understanding of the SDGs is an essential first step for GEWE stakeholders to demand for and contribute to a gender-responsive domestication, implementation monitoring of the SDGs;

- Promote and encourage UNCT prioritization of support to the national statistics authorities to acquire, retain and use expertise for institutionalized collection, analysis and reporting on SDG GEWE indicators.

12. What is the basic process of localizing SDGs?

There may be variations from country to country in the process of localisation of global agendas. However, there are also some basic components that may include the following:

✓ **Advocacy and Learning for the SDGs**

- Awareness raising and popularising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development national, local and community levels

- Advocacy on the importance of and relevance of the SDGs for local and community development including gender equality and women's empowerment

- Develop capacities necessary for translating the SDGs into a locally owned and driven agenda for local and community development, including achieving gender equality and women's empowerment

- Compiling and sharing good practices from MDG-based programmes that can be replicated and up-scaled

✓ **SDG-based Strategic Planning**

- Conducting various assessments, consultations and identifying (or confirming) development priorities

- Reviewing local development plans to mainstream the SDG in accordance with the identified

development priorities. The planning process must allow for multi and cross sectoral linkages in accordance with the 2030 Agenda. It is also important for this process to be participatory, involving national, local and community leaders, including from CSOs, private sector and development partners as a way of ensuring local ownership and commitment to the development plan. Development plans can be made more relevant by each decentralised level of government committing to its set of targets.

- Agreeing an implementation and monitoring framework with clear targets, indicators and means of verification. The framework needs to include plans for developing the necessary capacities for effective implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

- Negotiating and establishing clear national-local level linkages in the planning, budget, monitoring and feedback processes (upstream-downstream linkages).

✓ **Resources for achieving the SDGs**

- Reviewing national and local government revenue and budget frameworks, plans and allocations to reflect the identified SDG commitments

- Building and nurturing a strong partnership and coordination between government, donor countries/agencies, the UN System, private sector, and CSOs across sectors to ensure sustained commitment and resourcing of the SDG plans

- Institutionalisation of budgetary control systems and discipline at all levels including those related to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

✓ **Management and monitoring of Implementation**

- Strengthening systems for multi-level, multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder monitoring of implementation and linkages with national statistical systems

- Undertaking regular monitoring and reviews

• Facilitating community dialogue and mutual accountability mechanisms that act as watch dog roles to oversee appropriate use of funds and achievement of desired results.
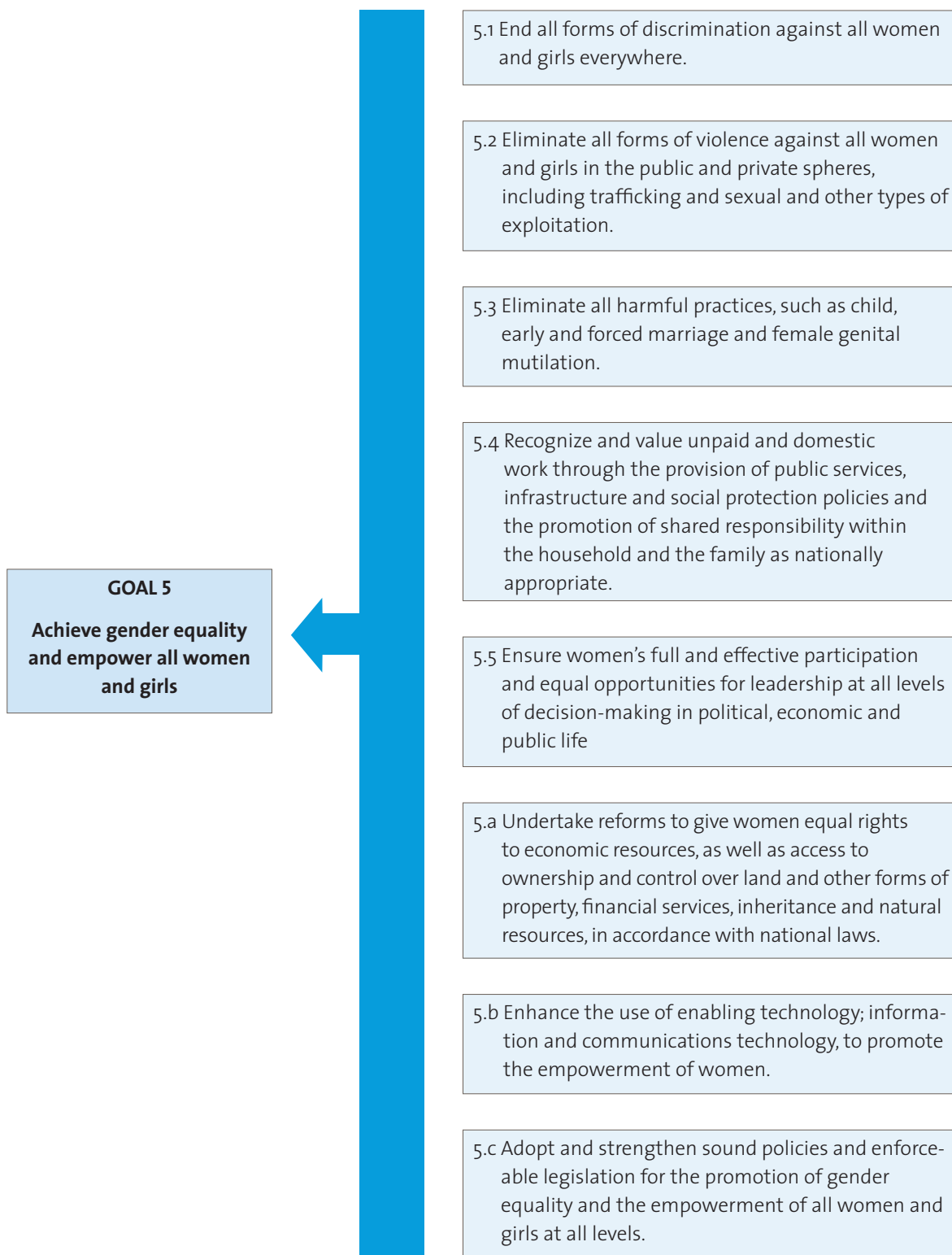
13. What messaging should you escalate for stakeholders in the SDGs localization processes and to whom?

a) The review and implementation of national and sub-national development plans integrating SDGs must build on existing commitments to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, such as those contained in CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action, and should draw on the lessons learnt from the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

b) The targets of Goal 5 are measurable and feasible to implement. The full implementation of the goal has the potential to transform unequal power relations between women and men and address the structural barriers holding back progress on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

c) UN Women welcomes the GEWE targets in other SDGs beside SDG 5. The review and implementation of the SDG-based plans must overcome existing policy and programme silos at the national and local levels and to build on the linkages among different goals. The SDGs go beyond mainstreaming of GEWE in process but calls for substantive results at the target and indicator level.

d) Effectively monitoring the targets for GEWE across the SDGs requires systematic sex-disaggregation of indicators across all goals and specific indicators to capture the unique experiences of women and girls. Governments and the UN System must put emphasis on strengthening capacities and national statistics systems for institutionalized sex-disaggregated data collection, analysis and use.

14. What tools and resources have been developed by UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa regional office to support countries in the region in the localization process?

a) UN Women ESARO Strategy for supporting the localization, and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

b) Knowledge management strategy for localization of SDGs

c) Communications strategy for localization of SDGs

d) UN Women's analysis of women and SDGs- Analysis of what SDGs mean for women was adopted from the UN Women website linked the analysis to country level and regional level interventions.

e) Country level SDGs localization tracking tool

f) FAQ on gender and SDGs

g) A publication on good practices on localization of SDGs in Eastern and Southern Africa

h) A publication on approaches by African governments in the localization and implementation of SDGs

15. What are the targets for goal five on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls?

GOAL 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology; information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.